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words: "In the event of the loss of a great fleet, the owner sees himself bereft at one blow." And certainly the lack of a good harbor was a chief element in the catastrophe of the Armada.

But Mary Stuart, who had for twenty years inspired the policy of Catholic Europe, knew (p. 663) that her remarkable career was over. And whether Philip admitted it to himself or no, he could but rejoice at her impending doom. It is possible that he might, as her heir, have brought himself to invade England and place her on the throne. His opportunity was good, but it wanted one thing to make it perfect, and that was the death of Mary, Queen of Scots.

For the special student of the sixteenth century, a recommendation of Major Hume's scholarly *Calendar* is superfluous. But I venture to say that all who love history will read with delight the brilliant essay which appears under the modest guise of an introduction to the present volume.

W. F. TILTON.

*The Courtships of Queen Elizabeth. A History of the Various Negotiations for Her Marriage.* By MARTIN A. S. HUME. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1896. Pp. 333.)

MAJOR HUME is well known as the scholarly editor of the *Calendar of Spanish State Papers (Elizabeth)*. His present work, a handsome volume, embellished with portraits and with designs from some of Queen Elizabeth's own books, is based on an overwhelming mass of original documents—French, English, Spanish, Venetian. While more than fulfilling in vivid picturesqueness the promise of its title, it is at the same time a masterly treatment of an unusually complicated period in the history of Europe. It is a book for all lovers of a well-told, romantic story, as well as for all students of the sixteenth century.

Until Elizabeth was fifty, there was no marriageable prince in Europe whom she had not considered as a possible consort. Though long after this age the vain old queen loved to simper at the lover's strain in which courtiers and foreign princes were cunning enough to address her, the present volume wisely deals only with those courtships which hide a deep political meaning, and reveal not only the queen's waywardness and fickleness as a woman, but also her astounding aptness in the political double-dealing of the time.

Philip the Second had been taught by his father to look upon marriage as the true way to add Great Britain to his empire. As Mary Tudor's husband he had been titular king, and was not ashamed to woo the daughter of Anne Boleyn, whose elevation to the throne had been such an outrage to the Spanish nation. Baffled in this suit, he continued to seek the aggrandizement of his house by attempting to procure Elizabeth's hand for one or another of the Hapsburg archdukes. But Elizabeth, pleased as she was personally by these flattering suggestions, knew that old Catholic Spain and youthful Protestant England could never be true allies. Her only disap-

pointment was that Philip proved too wary to give her, by a formal offer of his hand, the pleasure and the prestige of absolutely rejecting him.

With France the case was different. France and England, though natural rivals, were drawn together by a common enmity to the overwhelming power of Spain. The great aim of Elizabeth's foreign policy was therefore to foster the hostility of her two powerful rivals in order to keep her own hands free. Nothing could better promote this end than persistently to dangle before the eyes of Catharine de' Medici a match between Elizabeth and her son Alençon. Such a match was in reality impossible because the ambitious, crafty queen wished, not a dynastic alliance which might result in French supremacy over Great Britain, but simply that France should not take sides with Spain against herself. Yet Elizabeth was woman as well as queen, and when Alençon came to England she was nearly carried off her feet by her passion for the pockmarked little Frenchman, twenty years her junior. But her astute judgment always got the upper hand. Again and again it seemed she must marry him or repulse him finally, but she always found a loophole for escape. This royal game of hide-and-seek went on for years, watched by Europe with eager interest. Philip the Second was in great fear that it would result in the dreaded political alliance. Henry III. was anxious to get rid, by so brilliant a match, of his turbulent brother, who by ogling with the Huguenots threatened to divide France, and by his mad escapades in Flanders might force him into war with Spain. William of Orange hoped the match would enlist Elizabeth's whole strength in the Dutch struggle for independence. Elizabeth alone attained her immediate ends. Her statecraft, though now and again shaken by a surge of passion, kept her suitor at a distance without wholly estranging him. At his death Henry of Navarre became heir to the throne of France. The ultimate success of Protestantism under Elizabeth's lead was assured. There was no further need for Elizabeth to gain political ends by marriage with a great foreign prince. Yet she had not blushed to keep up the comedy even after her lover lay cold in death. "You have another son," she wrote Catharine de' Medici, "but I can find no other consolation than death, which I hope will soon enable me to rejoin him." It is impossible to believe that even Elizabeth's commanding mind could have mapped out beforehand the tortuous policy which she followed with such eminent success. But no monarch could have steered England through those troublous times, whose statecraft did not bear a close resemblance to the arts of the accomplished coquette.

W. F. TILTON.

*The First Whig.* By Sir GEORGE SITWELL, Bart. (Scarborough, England. Privately printed.)

It is a hopeful sign of the times when one sees a man occupying Sir George Sitwell's position finding time, in the midst of an active political career, to undertake original research in the field of English history. Favorably known already by his *Barons of Pulford*, one of our best recent